Serial No. 09/629,175

REMARKS

Claim 45 has been cancelled and claims 1, 8, 50 and 51 have been amended. Claims 1-33, 44 and 46-62 are pending and under consideration.

On October 12, 2005, Examiner Le kindly granted the undersigned and Dr. Frieder a personal interview to discuss the application. Applicants realize that a Final Office Action was issued before the interview and greatly appreciate the Examiner's time in preparing for and conducting the interview.

The Examiner requested that the specification be amended to eliminate a sentence which was added on June 5, 2003. This sentence has been eliminated.

The Examiner objected to claim 45 as failing to limit the subject matter of the independent claim. Claim 45 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-29, 45-48 and 50-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,409 to Aiken. Independent claim 1 recites eliminating tokens based on grammatical components. Independent claims 50 and 51 recite eliminating tokens based on parts of speech. As discussed extensively in the past, Applicants urge that Aiken does not eliminate tokens based on grammatical components/parts of speech. Applicants argue that Aiken eliminates tokens based on stop words. The Examiner takes the position that eliminating tokens based on stop words is the same as eliminating tokens based on grammatical components/parts of speech. To address this issue, independent claims 1, 50 and 51 have been amended to recite that eliminating tokens based on grammatical components/parts of speech is different from filtering based on stop words. Antecedent basis for this limitation can be found throughout the application. For example, page 12, paragraph 1 of the application, defines "stop words" as follows:

> In another embodiment, a token is removed from the token stream if the token represents a stop word. A "stop word" is any non-discriminatory token within a given context. In the trivial case, the given context is a complete language. Examples of typical stop words in the English language include: is; a; an; and the. In a non-trivial case, the given context is a document collection, and zero or more document collection-specific stop words are identified from the document collection using collection statistics.

Page 12, paragraph 3 provides a different definition for eliminating tokens based on parts of speech as follows:

> In a further embodiment, a token is removed from the token stream based on a determination as to which part of speech the token represents.

12

Serial No. 09/629,175

Examples of parts of speech include: a noun, a verb, an adjective, an adverb, a preposition; and a type of noun (e.g., a person, a place, a thing). For example, a token is removed from the token stream if the token represents and/or does not represent a desired part of speech. As another example, a token is removed from the token stream if the token does not represent a noun, and a token is retained in the token stream as a retained token if the token represents a noun. As yet another example, a token is removed from the token stream if the token represents a preposition, and a token is retained in the token stream as a retained token if the token does not represent a preposition.

The claim amendments address the Examiner's argument that filtering based on stop words is the same as filtering based on grammatical components/parts of speech. None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest eliminating tokens based on grammatical components/parts of speech. Accordingly, it is submitted that the prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT

Because the issue of filtering based on stop words versus filtering based on grammatical components/parts of speech has been discussed extensively during the prosecution, the claim amendments do not raise new issues which would require further search and/or consideration. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry is appropriate at this after final stage of prosecution.

There being no further outstanding rejections or objections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

13

Serial No. 09/629,175

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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14